

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /141 W

----- 079617

R 271541Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0360

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

DIA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3659

USUN ALSO FOR AMB. SCOTT

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PO, PU
SUBJ: AIRLIFT OF TROOPS FROM GUINEA

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE PRESS REPORTS, GOP DENIES, THAT
AIRLIFT OF TROOPS FROM GUINEA TO METROPOLE IN PROGRESS.
END SUMMARY

1. LISBON PRESS REPORTS THAT AIRLIFT OF TROOPS FROM
GUINEA IS IN PROGRESS. ACCORDING TO AFTERNOON DAILY A
CAPITAL, TOTAL OF 1,800 SOLDIERS AND DEPENDENTS ARRIVED
AT LISBON AIRPORT BETWEEN MORNING AUGUST 25 AND EARLY
AFTERNOON AUGUST 26. EVACUATION ACCOMPLISHED USING
TEN FLIGHTS OF PORTUGUESE AIRLINE TAP. EVACUEES
EVIDENTLY RECEIVED LITTLE FOREWARNING, ARRIVING WITHOUT
HAVING HAD CHANCE TO NOTIFY RELATIVES AND REQUEST THEY
BE MET AT AIRPORT.

2. MORNING DAILY DIARIO DE NOTICIAS REPORTS THAT EVENTUAL
TOTAL OF SEVENTY SUCHFLIGHTS PLANNED OVER COURSE OF
WEEK. IN ADDITION, SHIPS WILL BE LEAVING BISSAU FOR
LISBON WITH TROOPS. ACCORDING TO VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS,
PORTUGUESE FORCES REMAINING IN GUINEA WILL NOT EXCEED 300 MEN.

3. ARMED FORCES PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE HAS ISSUED
STATEMENT CONFIRMING REPORTS, BUT DENYING THAT TROOP
REMOVAL CONSTITUTES TRUE AIRLIFT. STATEMENT NOTES THAT
PLANS FOR PROGRESSIVE REMOVAL OF TROOPS HAVE LONG SINCE
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BEEN AMDE, THAT WHAT HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE AUGUST 24
IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ACCELERATION OF PACE. STATEMENT
FURTHER CLAIMS THAT PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE
NO DEFINITIVE DECISIONS CONCERNING VOLUME OF TROOPS
REMOVALS OR NUMBERS WHICH WILL REMAIN IN GUINEA-BISSAU,
WHICH MUST DEPEND IN PART ON REQUESTS FROM FUTURE
GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU TO GOP. TROOP MOVEMENTS
OF THIS SORT ARE NATURALLY SUBJECT BOTH TO DELAYS AND

SPPEUPS, AND THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SPEEDUP.

4. COMMENT: TEXT OF PORTUGUESE-PAIGC ALGIERS COMMUNIQUE INCLUDES, AS THIRD POINT, FOLLOWING CLAUSE:
QUOTE THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREE THAT PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES WILL WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU BY OCTOBER 31, 1974.
UNQUOTE FROM THIS STATEMENT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PAIGC DID NOT AGREE TO GOP CONDITION THAT PORT AND AIRPORT OF BISSAU WERE TO REMAIN UNDER PORTUGUESE MILITARY CONTROL IF GOP WOULD ACCEDE TO PAIGC DESIRE TO EVACUATE ONLY HALF OF TROOPS BY END DECEMBER AND WITHDRAW BALANCE PROGRESSIVELY DURING ENSUING YEAR. CLEARLY TO WITHDRAW SOME 30,000 TROOPS BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER 31, A "TRUE" AIR AND SEALIFT IS NECESSARY AND IS IN FACT UNDER WAY. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE GOP FINDS PORTUGUESE TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES ADEQUATE FOR THE TASK. THE ARMED FORCES PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE STATEMENT APPEARS DESIGNED PREVENT FALSE HOPES OF EARLY RETURN ALL TROOPS PENDING GOP-PAIGC ARRANGEMENTS FOR KEEPING MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL MILITARY PERSONNEL IN GUINEA-BISSAU FOR TIME BEING.

5. APPARENT PAIGC WILLINGNESS SEE PORTUGUESE TROOPS GO RATHER THAN ACCEPT LIMITATION ON SOVEREIGNTY INHERENT IN HAVING PORTUGAL CONTROL PORT AND AIRPORT REFLECTS DEGREE CONFIDENCE THAT SEKOU TOURE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY MOVE TO INCORPORATE GUINEA-BISSAU IN GUINEA IN FACE WORLD-WIDE WELCOME TO NEW GOVERNMENT, IF HE EVER HAD ANY SUCH INTENTION. DECISION ALSO REFLECTS PAIGC CONFIDENCE IN ITS ABILITY DEAL WITH ANY ANTI-PAIGC ELEMENTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU POPULACE.

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